CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented ~~executable~~ method, comprising:

receiving, by a computing device, an indication of a change to data comprising a reference attribute in a first external object in a first namespace, wherein the reference attribute refers to a second external object in the first namespace, the first external object and the second external object each having an associated central representation in a second namespace;

evaluating, by the computing device, an association between the central representation of the second object and the second object in the first namespace to identify a third external object in a third namespace~~, the third external object and the second external object sharing a unique identifier~~;

discovering, by the computing device, a format of a corresponding reference attribute in the third external object, the reference attribute and corresponding reference attribute having different formats and the format of the corresponding reference attribute being associated with an attribute in the central representation of the second object; and

propagating, by the computing device, the changed data to the third namespace to update the third external object, the propagating including retrieving a value of the attribute in the central representation of the second object and updating a value of the corresponding reference attribute in the third external object based on the retrieved value ~~and to update a fourth external object of the third namespace which includes a reference to the third external object,~~

~~wherein the references in the first and fourth external objects are the names of the first and fourth external objects in their respective namespaces and differ based on those namespaces~~.

2. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the indication of the change comprises a notice that the reference to the second external object was added, modified, or deleted.

3. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 1, wherein identifying the central representation of the first external object in the second namespace comprises evaluating correlation information that correlates objects in the first namespace with objects in the second namespace.

4. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 3, wherein the correlation information comprises a persistent data store that associates central representations in the second namespace with external objects in other namespaces.

5. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the association comprises a link between a unique identifier for each central representation in the second namespace and unique identifies for each external object.

6. (Original) The method recited in claim 5, wherein the unique identifier comprises a globally unique identifier.

7. (Original) The method recited in claim 4, wherein the persistent data store comprises a table.

8. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein the second namespace comprises a metadirectory.

9. (Original) The method recited in claim 1, wherein each object comprises an entity.

10. (Original) The method recited in claim 9, wherein each entity comprises a unique identifier that is immutable and a name.

11. (Original) The method recited in claim 10, wherein the name is mutable.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented ~~executable~~ method, comprising:

receiving, by a computing device, an indication of a reference change from a first object in a first namespace, the reference change comprising an addition, modification, or deletion to a value of a reference attribute of the first object, wherein the value of the reference attribute is the name of a second object in the first namespace~~, the name of the second object formatted based on the first namespace~~;

correlating, by the computing device, the first object to a central representation of the first object, the correlating including identifying a link between an immutable characteristic of the first object and the central representation;

identifying, by the computing device, another central representation corresponding to the second object ~~and reflecting the reference change in data of the other central representation~~;

identifying, by the computing device, a third object in a second namespace, the third object being associated with the ~~other~~ central representation and depending on the data of the ~~other~~ central representation;

discovering, by the computing device, a format of a corresponding reference attribute in the third object, the reference attribute and corresponding reference attribute having different formats and the format of the corresponding reference attribute being associated with an attribute in the other central representation corresponding to the second object; and

propagating, by the computing device, the data to the third object to update the third object, the propagating including retrieving a value of the attribute in the other central representation corresponding to the second object and updating a value of the corresponding reference attribute in the third object based on the retrieved value,

wherein the format of the reference attribute requires a name of a person represented by the second object and the format of the corresponding reference attribute requires an email alias of the person represented by the second object.

~~, wherein the data is formatted in accordance with the second namespace; and~~

~~updating, by the computing device, a value of a reference attribute of a fourth object of the second namespace which refers to the third object, wherein the value of the reference attribute is the name of the third object in the second namespace, the name of the third object formatted based on the second namespace, and the first and second namespaces requiring different formatting of names values of reference attributes.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 13, wherein the third object has an immutable characteristic.

16. (Original) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the immutable characteristic comprises a globally unique identifier.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 15, wherein identifying the third object in the second namespace comprises identifying a second link between an immutable characteristic of the third object and the other central representation.

19. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 13, wherein the central representation comprises an aggregation of information from the first object and the third object.

20. (Original) The method recited in claim 13, wherein the central representation and the other central representation reside in a metadirectory.

21.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a processor; and

a plurality of programming instructions to be executed by the processor to

receive an indication of a change to data comprising a reference attribute in a first external object in a first namespace, wherein the reference attribute refers to a second external object in the first namespace, the first external object and the second external object each having an associated central representation in a second namespace;

evaluate an association between the central representation of the second object and the second object in the first namespace to identify a third external object in a third namespace;

discover a format of a corresponding reference attribute in the third external object, the reference attribute and corresponding reference attribute having different formats and the format of the corresponding reference attribute being associated with an attribute in the central representation of the second object; and

propagate the changed data to the third namespace to update the third external object, the propagating including retrieving a value of the attribute in the central representation of the second object and updating a value of the corresponding reference attribute in the third external object based on the retrieved value.

~~receive an indication of a name change of a first referent object in a reference field of a first referring object in a first namespace, the reference field formatted in accordance with the first namespace;~~

~~correlate the first referent object to a central representation of the first referent object;~~

~~identify a second referent object associated with the central representation, the second referent object belonging to a second namespace; and~~

~~propagate the name change to the second referent object to update the second referent object; and~~

~~update a reference field of a second referring object of the second namespace, wherein the reference field of the second referring object is formatted in accordance with the second namespace, and the first and second namespaces requiring different formatting of reference fields.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the instructions are further to be executed by the processor to evaluate the correlation between the central representation of the first external ~~referent~~ object and the first external ~~referent~~ object by identifying a link between an immutable characteristic of the first external ~~referent~~ object and an immutable characteristic of the central representation of the first external ~~referent~~ object.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 27, wherein instructions are further to be executed by the processor to identify the third external ~~second referent~~ object in the ~~second~~ third namespace by identifying a link between an immutable characteristic of central representation of the ~~second referent~~ first external object and an immutable characteristic of the ~~second referent~~ third external object.

29. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 28, wherein the immutable characteristics comprise globally unique identifiers.

30.-33. (Canceled)